

# Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup

Preparing your child for a life of learning



## Annual Report 2024



## Contents

Welcome to the GEP Annual Report	page 3
Supervisor's Report 2023-24	page 4
Trustee's Report 2023-24	page 6
Treasurer's Report 2023-24	page 9
Thank you	page 12







Welcome to Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup's 2024 Annual Report

## About our Annual Report

2023-24 has been another exciting year for us and we look forward to sharing this with you. Our Annual Report provides you with information about GEP's activities for the 2023-24 academic year through the Supervisor's, Trustee's and Treasurer's reports including our financial statements.

Thanks for reading, thanks for being part of  
Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup



September 2023 feels like a long time ago! I'm sitting to write this and using it as an excuse to look back over photos from the year and recall the adventures we had. Having 31 children join us over 4 days means there's never a dull moment.

The Autumn term proved eventful with winter storms bringing torrential rain and the risk of flooding. But we still ventured out and the children have observed the seasonal changes as we worked at the allotment; we especially enjoyed seeing the pumpkins grow.

Autumn crafts are a particular favourite, conker necklaces, leaf hedgehogs and natural bird feeders. So many different processes to be proud of.

We encourage the children to care for the mini beasts and birds; filling our bird feeders and making lovely treats to hang in their gardens.



Our forest school team were kept busy this term protecting the site from the worst of the weather. But still had time to build this lovely den for the children which proved very popular.



As the festive season approached it was time to decorate the Christmas tree and make mince pies. The term finished with our Woodland Nativities. Families braved the very muddy conditions to join us at forest school for a hot drink and mince pie.

Cont./



In the Spring, the hard work at the allotment begins! Lots of weeding and planting to keep us busy. We also had Caterpillars come to stay. We loved watching them grow and change over the weeks and finally being able to release beautiful butterflies was amazing.

In the Summer we are pretty much always outside, making the most of the nice weather on the patio with chalkboards, dens and obstacle courses. We are gearing up fully for the transition to school and all the excitement that the end of year brings especially our knighting ceremony.



We are so fortunate to have a great staff team who have worked with us for many years. This helps provide a solid foundation for Playgroup and is a real positive of ours as a group.

Each member of staff brings something different to the team. Donna with her crafty skills means children get to take home beautiful masterpieces each week. Kirsty leads baking and ensures delicious treats are made and enjoyed. Paula's caring nature means she provides the perfect support in the SENCO role and Libby brings her wealth of forest school experience to the group. Julia and Paula P provide extra support when we need it - we really are very lucky.

I couldn't not include this photo as it makes me smile a lot and sums us up perfectly. Whilst I apologise to this family's washing machine, what fun was had!

Sophie and Pauline



### Report of the trustees for the year ending 31 August 2024

#### Chair's report

Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup (GEP) is a registered charity, No. 1036608.

Our trustees for the year were:

Helen Wakerley	Chair
Elizabeth Tiplady	Treasurer
Clare Harley	
Ruth Nuttall	
Laura Darwin	

The role of Secretary was shared during the year.

#### Structure, governance, and management

The pre-school operates under the Pre-school Learning Alliance Model Constitution 2011 which was approved by the Charity Commission on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Membership of the Pre-school is divided into two kinds:

- (a) Family Membership - Parents or guardians of all children who attend the group.
- (b) Affiliate Membership - Affiliate Membership is open to those individuals, organisations or other bodies interested in supporting the aims of the Pre-school.

The overall management and control of the Pre-school rests with the Pre-school's management committee ("the committee"). As well as being responsible for the management of the Pre-school the Committee members are also the charity trustees of the Preschool. Committee member are elected for one year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee consists of:

- A Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary ("the Officers"); and
- Not less than 2 nor more than 9 other elected Members; and
- If the Committee decides it can co-opt up to 3 further Members onto the Committee at any time after the AGM.

Together, the committee are the 'registered person' with Ofsted and have overall responsibility for ensuring the childcare provision meets the terms of Ofsted registration and the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. To comply with safeguarding requirements all new Committee members are required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check online before they can be added to an Ofsted registration. We have a trustee induction programme and support new committee members during this process.

One trustee who regularly volunteered during the year received a contribution towards petrol expenses. The additional member of staff enabled us to maintain our child numbers while supporting a child with SEN.

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The day-to-day running of the pre-school is delegated to our Supervisors and the team:

Sophie Grant	Supervisor (Monday/Tuesday), Deputy Supervisor (Wednesday/Friday)
Pauline Bowman	Supervisor (Wednesday/Friday), Deputy Supervisor (Monday/Tuesday)
Donna Booth	SENCO
Rachel Wright	Forest school leader (Wednesday)
Kirsty Fish	Assistant
Paula Greenhalgh	Assistant
Libby Eaton	FS assistant
Julia Pritchard	FS assistant (Supply cover)
Paula Pawson	FS assistant (Supply cover)

We were sad to say goodbye to Rachel who had been our forest school leader for many years; we wish her well in her new role. Fortunately, Pauline, Libby and Julia all have a wealth of experience and have taken on the role with great success. The high number of staff reflects our commitment to offering outdoor opportunities such as forest school and woodland adventure. We meet or exceed the ratio and qualification requirements as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

### Our aims

The aims of the pre-school are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by offering appropriate play, education, and care.

We provide an environment where each child can develop and fulfil their potential; build their self-confidence and gain the skills and experience they need to make the most of their early years in school.

### Our ethos

GEP is a rural Peak District pre-school which provides a forward thinking, unhurried and playful approach to early learning. We have eight core principles that we apply every day:

- We believe that children learn best through play
- We prepare children for school, but we don't mimic school
- We promote child-led play as an essential part of children's learning
- We balance free play with focussed, adult led group learning
- We believe that children should be engaged, not occupied, at pre-school
- We provide experiences which are meaningful to our children
- We manage behaviour positively
- We value outdoor play as a valuable childhood experience

"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults."

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Cont./

### **Pupil numbers and fees**

In 2023-24 we had 31 children from 29 families accessing our pre-school.

Our fees for children aged two to three years (up to the term of their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday) were set at £6.00 per hour. In July 2024, the Committee agreed to increase the rate to £7.00 per hour with effect from September 2024.

Fees for children in receipt of the Early Years Funding are determined by Derbyshire County Council. For 3-4 year olds the year started with a rate of £4.80 per hour which increased to £5.00 per hour with effect from the Summer term. The rate charged for hours taken in addition to the free entitlement was set at £7.00 per hour, the Committee agreed to increase this figure to £7.50 per hour with effect from September 2024.

From April 2024 working parents were able to claim 15 hours funded childcare for two year olds. The rate for funded two-year olds was set at £7.21 with a deprivation supplement of 32p. Charges for additional hours would be the same as our fees for two to three year olds.

### **Staffing**

Our focus was statutory training with staff attending 1<sup>st</sup> aid, Safeguarding and Health and safety courses. In addition, staff attended training in Communication skills, Supporting children with ASD and Bushcraft.

### **Volunteers**

Our thanks to the volunteer who ran our mud kitchen toddler group during the year. This popular drop-in session is a good fundraiser and also enables parents and children to visit the setting which helps with settling in the future.

### **Planning for the future**

A child's early years are the foundation for his or her future development, providing a strong base for lifelong learning and learning abilities, including cognitive and social development. Well-established research continues to emphasize the importance of early childhood education as an essential building block of a child's future success. So, we are committed to safeguarding the future of our group as we believe that what we offer is special and worth protecting

It was a wonderful achievement to finish the year with a surplus as this has enabled us to add to our reserves. Our reserves protect us from fluctuations in child numbers in the future and puts us in a strong position to plan for the future.

Next year we will continue to look at how we can maintain our support through grant applications and our own fundraising efforts.

I would like to thank our local community for their ongoing support; including the GPFA, Eyam Half Marathon committee, Queen Anne Inn, Eyam Youth Club and Grindleford PTA/Gallop. I would also like to thank our local Co-op for support throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank our trustees and staff team for their continued hard work and dedication – your enthusiasm for providing high quality early years education remains our greatest strength.



### Our finances

We ended the year in a good place financially as we had a surplus of funds which allowed us to top up our reserves. The surplus came from our fundraising and donations during the year. Our reserve is now set to a value which would allow us to meet our statutory requirements for final salary and redundancy payments.

Our total income for the year was £86,080, an increase of £15,909. Our expenditure also increased to £79,732 from £69,852, an increase of £9,880.

Our fee income for the year was £73,811. 68% of our fee income came from the Early Year's Funding, a total of £50,489. Our fees from self-funded children totalled £23,322. We were fortunate to start the year at near capacity and a regular volunteer enabled us to increase our numbers during the year.

Our fundraising total was down on last year but we saw a rise in donations. We would like to thank our local community and families for their support. The events held this year included:

£357 was raised by our Christmas Hamper raffle. Our thanks to Chatsworth for the donation of the hamper.  
£458 was raised by a cream tea held in Eyam. This event was made possible by the donation of jam and cream from The Cream Tea Society. We would also like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the tombola stall and everyone who helped on the day.

£297 was raised by our quiz night and raffle. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

£295 was raised by our regular mud kitchen group.

£230 was raised by the clothes and ink cartridge collection schemes, many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

£177 was raised by our collection tins. This year our tins have been placed in The Barrel Inn, The Miners Arms, The Queen Ann, Eyam Post Office and Grindleford Community shop.

Our fundraising total for the year was £1,814 (£1,719 net of expenses) a wonderful achievement for the group.

Once again, we ran a holiday club in the Summer break which raised £372 (£31 net of wages and sundry expenses) compared with £740 (£290 net of wages and sundry expenses). Income raised was reduced by two factors this year; we did not fill either session and we used our Early Years Pupil Premium to support two places.

Donations and grants received during the year totalled £7,050; of which £1,324 were restricted funds.

We received the following donations and grants this year:

£1,000 was received from the Pigeon Club/Queen Anne Pub

£1,800 was received from Grindleford PTA/Gallop

£500 was received from Eyam Half Marathon

£400 was received from Eyam Youth Club

£972 in snack donations – a very generous contribution which covered our snack and hygiene costs; thank you so much to our parents for embracing this voluntary donation.

£1,054 was received in individual donations including £54 via Benevity, a scheme which enables employees to support charities through their employer.

In addition, we received £100 Gift Aid on donations made during 2022-23.

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The following grants were restricted to a specific purpose.

We used the last of the Kinder Kids donation to purchase a new laptop, £189.

We received £159 from the Eyam Book Barn to purchase a waterproof camera.

We were fortunate enough to have been selected as a Co-op charity again in 2022-23 with funds raised supporting our aim of helping the children learn how to grow their own produce and to prepare, cook and provide a healthy diet. £1,165 has been paid in the 23-24 accounting period of which £672 has been spent, including £163 on tools, buckets and a compost bin.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to everyone who contributes by donating or volunteering; our pre-school is very special, and we thank everyone who helps to protect it's future.

Sundry income totalled £2,381. SEN funding accounts for £2,117; Gift aid £100; Duplicate bank payments £78 and refunded items £86. A final SEN payment of £663 was received after the year end.

Our costs this year were £79,732.

Our combined staff and forest school leader costs of £65,414 account for 82% of our total costs.

Our rental costs of £7,405 accounts for 9% of our cost. Our hourly rate is due to increase in February with regular increases planned by the GPFA.

We spent £1,409 on equipment during the year. This included items purchased with grants, details above. Other purchases included £167 to replace our roadside board and banner; £148 for small world animals and tractors; £180 for a new pram; £85 for replacement cloakroom; £83 improving home corner; £22 replacing plates and £27 for new outdoor hoops.

Our training costs for the year were £326. Our focus was statutory training with staff attending 1<sup>st</sup> aid, safeguarding and Health and safety courses. In addition, staff attended training in communication skills, Supporting children with ASD and Bushcraft.

Fundraising costs decreased slightly from £116 to £95. We paid £40 to rent the room used for the cream tea; renewed our lottery license for £20; and spent £35 on raffle tickets. All expenditure on fundraising has seen a good return on the expenditure with events raising much needed funds.

Our sundry costs are £3,482; an increase on last year's expenditure. Our largest outgoings are snacks (£690); hygiene products (£465); volunteer petrol expense (£454) and baking (£228). Other costs included our payroll package (£190); membership of the Early Years Alliance (£122); Ofsted registration (£50); National Trust site licence (£63); website (£43) and mobile phone top-ups (£30). Items returned for refund totalled £67; the bank made three duplicate payments totalling £78 which were refunded; one card payment of £19 made in error has been refunded.

The volunteer petrol expenses were paid to a regular volunteer who formed part of the staff team allowing the group to admit additional children which increased our fee income. The volunteer also covered staff absences which helped reduce staffing costs.

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Our costs on materials have increased to £478. Stationery costs remained high (£202). Playdough materials such as flour, salt and food colouring totalled £48. Craft materials such as paint, clay and glue sticks totalled £96. Using money from our Co-op grant we were able to purchase seeds and other materials to support the children's understanding of growth and preparing food (£107); we also bought seed to feed the birds at the allotment (£22).

We end the year with a closing cash balance of £41,006, an increase of £6,348 of which £492 are restricted funds.

Analysis of the figures shows that without the income brought in by donations and fundraising our closing balance would have shown a deficit of £2,807.

The committee agreed to transfer £5,607 to our reserve this will ensure we have sufficient funds to cover costs such as redundancy and final salary payments. A portion of our reserves is allocated to cover any budget shortfall during the year.

### Planning for the future

This year has been a good year for our finances as we started with high numbers and the help of our volunteer enabled us to take extra children on our popular days. Next year does not look as positive with places still available on most days as the year starts. However, the funds we added to our reserves brings us some assurance that we can manage our budget for another year.

At the end of each year we look back and recognise how fortunate we are to have the support of our families and the local community. We see the good work we are doing and are motivated to continue.

We would like to thank the staff for their outstanding contribution to our success; they are a great team who provide such wonderful opportunities and loving care to the children.

The trustees will continue to search out ways to support the group and to bring in grants. We also hope that fundraising continues to provide much needed additional income.

It is important we continue these efforts to maintain our reserve fund and protect the playgroup's future.





**We want to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers and supporters for their wonderful dedication and hard work.**

**Whether it was updating our website, looking after our accounts or helping out at one of our fundraisers – we could not have done any of this without you and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.**



**Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup  
Financial Statements  
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**

**Analysis of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 August 2024**

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
Fees		73,811	57,634
Fundraising		1,814	2,261
Milk Grant		259	274
Grants / Donations - Restricted		1,324	500
Grants / Donations - Unrestricted		5,726	3,643
Holiday club		372	904
Sundries	A	2,381	4,818
Bank Interest		393	136
Total Receipts		86,080	70,171
<b>Payments</b>			
Wages		64,694	55,931
Forest School Leaders		720	1,285
Rent		7,405	6,573
Milk		259	278
Equipment		1,409	1,540
Materials		478	316
Fundraising		95	116
Training		326	229
Sundries	B	3,482	2,673
Insurance		778	741
Holiday club	C	85	172
Total Payments		79,732	69,852
<b>Increase in cash</b>		<b>6,348</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Cash balance</b>			
Opening cash balance		34,658	34,340
Closing cash balance		41,006	34,658
<b>Increase in cash</b>		<b>6,348</b>	<b>318</b>

**Notes**

A- this figure includes SEN funding £2,117; gift aid 2022-23 £100; refunds for items returned £86 and duplicate bank payments £78

B - this figure includes petrol expenses for volunteer, Early Years Alliance membership, gifts, staff uniform, website, Ofsted, mobile phone top-up and payroll package

C -this figure does not include staff wages estimated at £257

**Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup  
Financial Statements  
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**

**Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 August 2024**

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Cash</b>			
Petty cash		385	461
Reserve account		32,000	26,000
Current account		8,621	8,197
Total cash		41,006	34,658

**Notes**

**Receivables**

We are also due the following receipts / incurred expenses:

HMRC - Gift Aid (estimated)	30	100
SEN final payment	663	0
Total receivables	693	100

We also hold assets in the form of play equipment that is insured for £10,000.

**Liabilities**

Training costs	0	0
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**Payables**

The following payments are outstanding:

Sundry creditors	A	371	407
Total payables		371	407

**Notes**

A - HMRC £371



**Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup  
Financial Statements  
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**

**Additional analysis for the year ending 31 August 2024**

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Receipts - Fundraising</b>			
Easy Fundraising/Amazon Smile		0	58
Carnival Stall / Grindleford Show		0	120
Mud Kitchen		295	426
Sale of goods		0	144
Collection tins		177	145
Clothes/ink cartridge collection		230	100
Raffles held during year		654	910
Cream tea		458	338
Football cards		0	20
Total		1,814	2,261

**Payments - Sundries**

Snacks		690	649
Gifts	A	278	230
Hygiene		465	344
Baking		228	154
DBS		101	0
Payroll		190	175
Fire		77	69
Annual ofsted fee		50	50
Pre-school learning alliance membership		122	118
Recruitment		0	0
Other sundries	B	1,121	776
Staff uniforms		161	108
Total		3,482	2,673

**Notes**

A - Gifts includes children's gifts £37; leaving gift £6; thank you gift £5; staff and volunteers gifts £230

B - Trustee expenses £454; duplicate bank debits £78; refunded purchases £86; Laptop maintenance agreement £55; Staff events £121; National Trust site licence £63; mobile phone top-up £30; website plan £43; Grindleford show advert £25; Flowers for knighting ceremony £18

**Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup  
Financial Statements  
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**

**Additional analysis for the year ending 31 August 2024**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Grants / Donations - Restricted</b>			
Co-op Community Fund	A	1165	0
Kinder Kids	B	0	0
Eyam Half Marathon		0	500
Growing Golden		0	0
Eyam Book Barn	C	159	0
GPFA (1st aid equipment)		0	0
<b>Total Restricted Grants / Donations</b>		<b>1,324</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Grants / Donations - Unrestricted</b>			
Queen Anne/Pigeon club		1000	1500
Grindleford School PTA/Gallop		1,800	0
Donations to GEP		1,054	70
Snack Donations		972	1073
Eyam half marathon		500	500
Eyam & district dart league		0	500
Eyam Youth Club		400	0
<b>Total Unrestricted Grants / Donations</b>		<b>5726</b>	<b>3,643</b>

**Notes**

A - payment of monies raised through Co-op Community Fund to be used to cover baking and allotment costs. £672 spent to date provider has agreed that o/s funds can be spent next year

B - final funds spent this year on new laptop

C - Book Barn donation to purchase camera, fund spent in full



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

GRINDLEWOOD & EYAM PLAYGROUP

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/8/24

Charity no  
(if any)

1036608

Set out on pages

1-4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/8/24.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [✓ if not applicable].~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below \*~~) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: SLCROOKER

Date: 12/6/25

Name: SLCROOKER

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

ACCOUNTANT



(if any):

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Address:

FORESTERS COTTAGE
WATER LANE
ETAM, HOPE VALLEY

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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